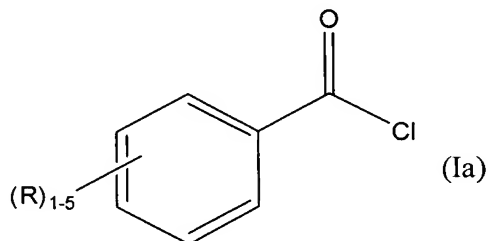


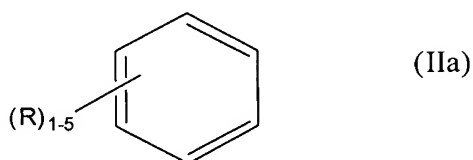
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

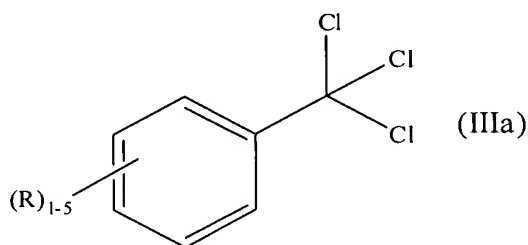
Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing 3-, 4- or 5-fold-C₁-C₂₀-alkyl- and/or mono- or poly -halogen-substituted benzoyl chlorides (~~H~~) (Ia)



, by, in a first stage, reacting a 3-, 4- or 5-fold-C₁-C₂₀-alkyl- and/or mono- or poly -halogen-substituted benzene (~~H~~) (IIa)

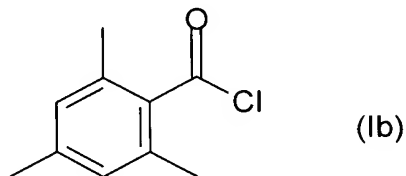


with CCl₄ in the presence of AlCl₃ and subsequent hydrolysis of the formed AlCl₃ complex to give the corresponding 3-, 4- or 5-fold-C₁-C₂₀-alkyl- and/or mono- or poly-halogen-substituted trichloromethylated aromatic (~~H~~) (IIIa)



and, in a second stage, the trichloromethylated benzene (~~H~~) (IIIa) is hydrolyzed with water in the presence of a catalyst to obtain the benzoyl chloride (~~H~~) (Ia), wherein in the second stage the aqueous organic phase from the hydrolysis of the AlCl₃ complex is used, and water-free [CCl₄] CCl₄ is distilled off after the hydrolysis.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein said 3-, 4- or 5-fold-C₁-C₂₀-alkyl- and/or mono- or poly -halogen-substituted benzoyl chlorides (Ia) is trimethylbenzoyl chloride of the formula (Ib)



is prepared from mesitylene as the substituted benzene (~~II~~) (IIa).

Claim 3 (currently amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of CCl₄ to substituted aromatic (~~II~~) (IIa) is from 1:1 to 3.5:1.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein from 1 to 1.5 equivalents of AlCl₃ per equivalent of the substituted benzene (~~II~~) (IIa) are used.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The process according to claim 3, wherein the complex of trichloromethylated benzene (~~III~~) (IIIa) and AlCl₃ is hydrolyzed with water at from 20 to 100°C.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The process according to claim 5, wherein the hydrolysis of the complex of trichloromethylated aromatic (~~III~~) (IIIa) and AlCl₃ is carried out continuously.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): The process according to claim 2, wherein the molar ratio of CCl_4 to substituted aromatic (~~II~~) (IIa) is from 1:1 to 3.5:1.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The process according to claim 2, wherein from 1 to 1.5 equivalents of AlCl_3 per equivalent of the substituted benzene (~~II~~) (IIa) are used.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The process according to claim 3, wherein from 1 to 1.5 equivalents of AlCl_3 per equivalent of the substituted benzene (~~II~~) (IIa) are used.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The process according to claim 4, wherein the complex of trichloromethylated benzene (~~III~~) (IIIa) and AlCl_3 is hydrolyzed with water at from 20 to 100°C .

Claim 12 (previously presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst used in the second stage is FeCl_3 .